

OFFICIAL



a mapping mechanism in communication with the data handler mechanism, the mapping mechanism being separate from the data handler mechanism, the mapping mechanism being arranged to obtain the command object, wherein the command object is obtained by the mapping mechanism based substantially on the data.

9. A computer-implemented method for associating data with a command object in response to a request from an application, the method comprising:

accessing the data through an interface in response to the request from the application, the interface being independent from the application and in communication with the application, wherein the request from the application is processed by the interface, the interface allowing use of new command objects without modifying the application;

accessing a mapping mechanism which is in communication with the interface, the mapping mechanism being independent from the application such that the mapping mechanism is not a component of the application, the mapping mechanism being maintained separately from the interface, the mapping mechanism further being arranged to locate a command object that is appropriate for the data, wherein the mapping mechanism is accessed by the interface;

obtaining the command object that is appropriate for the data, wherein the mapping mechanism obtains the command object and passes the obtained command object to the interface;

binding the command object to the data, wherein the interface binds the command object to the data; and

returning the command object to the application, wherein the interface returns the command object to the application.

16. A computer program product for associating data with a command object in response to a request from an application, the computer program product comprising:

computer code for accessing the data through an interface in response to the request from the application, the interface being independent from the application and in communication with the application, wherein the request from the application is processed by the interface, the interface allowing use of new command objects without modifying the application;

computer code for accessing a mapping mechanism which is in communication with the interface, the mapping mechanism being independent from the application such that the mapping mechanism is not a part of the application, the mapping mechanism further being separately maintained from the interface, the mapping mechanism further being arranged to locate a

command object that is appropriate for the data, wherein the mapping mechanism is accessed by the interface;

computer code for obtaining the command object that is appropriate for the data, wherein the mapping mechanism obtains the command object and passes the obtained command object to the interface;

computer code for binding the command object to the data, wherein the interface binds the command object to the data;

computer code for returning the command object to the application, wherein the interface returns the command object to the application; and

a computer-readable medium that stores the computer codes.

23. A computer-implemented framework for associating data with a command object, the command object being arranged to operate on the data, wherein the data is associated with a selected application, the computer-implemented framework comprising:

a data handler mechanism arranged to interface with a plurality of applications, the plurality of applications including the selected application, wherein the data handler mechanism is independent from the plurality of applications and allows use of new command objects without modifying the application;

a data retriever mechanism in communication with the data handler mechanism, the data retriever mechanism being arranged to obtain the data and to pass the data to the data handler mechanism; and

a mapping mechanism in communication with the data handler mechanism, the mapping mechanism being substantially separate from the data handler mechanism, the mapping mechanism being arranged to obtain the command object, wherein the mapping mechanism is associated with the plurality of applications and is arranged to obtain the command object without directly involving the selected application.

REMARKS

The Applicants gratefully acknowledge the telephone conference with the Examiner on July 10, 2001. The Examiner agreed that clarification of the claim language relating to the interface would overcome the Colter (U.S. 5,303,361) 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection. The Applicants have consequently amended independent claims 1, 9, 16, and 23 to clarify the claim language and overcome the prior art rejections as agreed upon during the telephone conference.

SUN1P123C1/P2688C

-3-